Ground Handling Policy in Six Metro Airports

275. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has planned to implement any new airport ground handling policy in six metro airports;

(b) whether it is a fact that this new policy is opposed by airline companies since it would force them to retrench staff in thousands and jack up their operation costs; and

(c) if so, Government's reaction thereto and the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir. Keeping in view the security requirements and balancing them with the requirement of providing ground handling services of international standards in a competitive environment, Government had decided to implement a new ground handling policy at airports.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Airline operators had expressed their concerns about the new Ground Handling policy. The matter was examined by the Government and it was decided that the exit of non-entitled entities including domestic airlines will be implemented only after undertaking a comprehensive review and with inter-ministerial consultations in a time bound manner.

FDI in Aviation Sector

276. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to permit foreign airlines to invest upto 25 per cent in domestic airlines;

(b) if so, the reasons for increasing Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in aviation sector when the 'Vision 2020' document is not yet finalized;

(c) whether it is a fact that after 26/11 Mumbai terror attack, bringing FDI in domestic carriers would be a security threat or risk;

(d) if so, whether the Ministry of Home Affairs has cleared the proposal; and

(e) if not, the reasons for bringing such a proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (e) The proposal to allow foreign airlines to invest in domestic airline is under examination.

Upgradation of Non-metro Airports

277. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the current economic slowdown has forced Airport Authority of India (AAI) to put aside ambitions to upgrade 35 non-metro airports for which work was to start in the last financial year;

(b) if so, what was the exact amount of non-payment of dues by domestic and foreign airlines to AAI which lead to defer its non-metro upgradation plans; and

(c) how much amount the modernization exercise of all the 35 airports, is estimated to cost indicating the details of non-metro airports AAI has been targeting to upgrade by the end of financial year 2009-10?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The estimated amount for upgradation of 35 non-metro airports is Rs.2911.57 crores. Development works completed at various non-metro airports are as follows: Vizag (Andhra Pradesh)- construction of new integrated terminal building with a cost of Rs. 94.94 crores; Aurangabad (Maharashtra)- construction of new integrated terminal building with a cost of Rs. 99.60 crores; Nagpur (Maharashtra)- expansion and modification of terminal building for international operations at a cost of Rs. 79.03 crores; Jaipur (Rajasthan)- construction of new international terminal complex at a cost of Rs. 94.87 crores; Udaipur (Rajasthan)-construction of new terminal building complex at a cost of Rs. 77.44 crores; Trichy (Tamil Nadu)- construction of new terminal building at a cost of Rs. 74.70 crores and Dehradun (Uttarakhand)- construction of new terminal building at a cost of Rs. 72.50 crores.

Development works scheduled to be completed in Financial Year 2009-10 at various non-metro airports are as under:

Raipur (Chhattisgarh)- construction of new terminal building with a cost of Rs. 135.72 crores; Ahmedabad (Gujarat)- construction of new international terminal building at a cost of Rs. 291 crores; Ranchi (Jharkhand)- construction of new terminal building at a cost of Rs. 137.79 crores; Mangalore (Karnataka)- construction of new terminal building including apron at a cost of Rs. 145 crores; Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh)- construction of new integrated terminal building at a cost of Rs. 135.04 crores; Indore (Madhya Pradesh)- construction of new integrated terminal building at a cost of Rs. 135.6 crores; Pune (Maharashtra)-extension and modification of terminal building at a cost of Rs. 96.30 crores; Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu)- expansion of existing terminal building at a cost of Rs. 145 crores; Madurai (Tamil Nadu)- construction of new integrated terminal building at a cost of Rs. 128 crores; Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh)- construction of new international terminal building at a cost of Rs. 129.40 crores; Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh)- construction of new international terminal building including aerobridges at a cost of Rs. 94.11 crores; Chandigarh (Union Territory)-construction of new terminal building at a cost of Rs. 47.58 crores; Khajuraho (Madhya Pradesh)- construction of new integrated terminal building at a cost of Rs. 75.32 crores.

New facilities at Metro Airports

†278.SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.